

LIST OF MEMBERS.

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Our First Gun.

As it well known to our readers and the entire community there are a few individuals in our midst who have been endeavoring for some time to create the Grange movement, to divide all persons and cause in opposition to the corrupt and infamous rings and oligarchy who have run this section; who believe, in fact, to be the Country and who intend to stir out and burn to have all who will not do their reverence, and become their pliant tools to carry out their damnable plots. We are of the number who have failed to do them homage, and their efforts have been hitherto in trying to reach us. But they have failed, more signally, in the past, and it is with our brethren to determine if it shall be so in the future.

This fight is one of principle and we do not propose to give it up. But to you, fellow-Patrons! we most appeal for earnest and material support. We have boldly put on your armor and unfurled your banner to the breeze, and propose to fight for your rights and principles let the issue be what it may. Then rally to our support! Let our brethren everywhere put their shoulders to the wheel and roll up each week 100 or more subscribers for the only open and avowed Grange organ along the sea coast.

Do not be led astray by pretended journalistic friendships, and subscribe to a paper whose admiration and zeal for our cause is confined to convenient places and times. Those who are not openly with us are secretly against us.

Keep on in the Good Work.

We must continue in the good work so earnestly begun. We must work zealously and continually to enlist under our banner every farmer and planter of Mississippi, and if all true friends of reform will give us an honest and steady support, we can save ourselves and redeem the State. Nothing has ever been developed that is doing so much good for the farming community, as the Grange. Let us increase its usefulness by organizing Granges until they become as numerous as the grains of sand upon the sea shore. There must be no standing still—no folding of idle hands, no loitering in pleasant places. Organize! is the cry; organize is the motto—organize the purpose. In the association of the Granges lies our only hope. We are in a woful condition. Now all is dark, very dark. The only distant light is the Grange. Then let the work of reorganization go bravely on in this section of our State, and let the Granges in this State act together for their mutual interest, and make our power for good felt everywhere. Let us at this late day organize one thousand Granges all over this State; let the noble women of Mississippi enter these Granges and become co-workers with the men in this great movement, and encourage the men to keep up with the spirit and progress of the cause.

An "Open Grange."

A Grange in Muscatine county, Iowa, holds what is called open Grange, in which no business is transacted, and invites everybody to attend. Questions of interest to agriculturalists and others are to be discussed. We suggest that the Granges in Mississippi do likewise. Let every Grange have an open meeting once a month at which, discuss all matters of interest to the present, inviting all to take part in these discussions. It will be the means of arousing the indifferent and callous, to a true realization of the benefits that may be gained from the association of the Grange. Let us hear from the Granges on this subject.

Andrew Jackson's Duel.—Thomas Rutherford, of Sumner county, Ky., has a brace of pistols in his possession which were given to an uncle of his by Andrew Jackson, at a duel between the two. The words "one, two," had been given, when "Old Hickory" stepped up to his vis-a-vis, saying, "By the Eternal! sir, I would despise myself to sacrifice such noble material as you are made of. Sir, accept these pistols from one who ever admires true courage and pluck, such as you have to-day demonstrated, and accept these from me as an evidence of my high appreciation of you as a man who dares to defend his rights."

Warnings.

From every quarter comes a call of warning as to the necessity of being doubly cautious and careful about the meeting of members into our lodges.

For here lies our greatest danger—exaggeration of the only rule against which we will stand to place. It is impossible for us to be too careful in guarding every action by which our ranks can creep into our councils and obtain power in our midst.

If "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance" it is well worth all its cost. We must particularly call the attention of our Deputies to the rulings of the National and State Granges on the question of eligibility to membership. They are a unit in ruling that "A man following another person though he may own a farm filled by members of his family, is not eligible to membership in the Grange." We shall from time to time publish such information on this important question as shall come to our notice, and trust there will be no further violations of the principles and the constitution of our Order.

It is not the assaults of our enemies we have to dread so much as masked treason in our midst.

The Granger's Ten Commandments.

I. Thou shalt love the Grange with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and thou shalt love thy brother Grangers as thyself.

II. Thou shalt not suffer the name of thy Grange to be evil spoken of, but shalt severely chastise the wretch who speaks of it with contempt.

III. Remember that Saturday is Granger day. On it thou shalt not aside thy hoe and rake, and sewing machine, and wash thyself, and appear before the Master in the Grange with smiles, and songs, and hearty cheer. On the fourth week thou shalt not appear empty-handed, but shalt surely bring a pair of ducks, a turkey roasted with fire, a cake baked in the oven, and pies and fruit in abundance for thy harvest feast. So shalt thou eat and be merry and "freights and fares" shall be remembered no more.

IV. Honor thy Master, and all who sit in authority over thee, that the days of the Grange may be long in the land which Uncle Sam hath given thee.

V. Thou shalt not go to law.

VI. Thou shalt not burn thy straw, but shall surely stack it for thy cattle in winter.

VII. Thou shalt do no business on "tick." Pay as thou goest, as much as in thee lieth.

VIII. Thou shalt support the Granger's Bank; for thus it becometh thee to fulfill the laws of business.

IX. Thou shalt by all means have thy life insured in the Granger's Life Insurance Company, that thy wife and little ones may have friends when thou art cremated and gathered unto thy fathers.

X. Thou shalt have no Jewish middlemen between thy ranch and Liverpool, to fatten on thy honest toil; but shall surely charter thy own ships, and sell thy own produce, and use thine own brain. This is the last and great commandment. On this hang all the laws and profits. And if there be any others, they are these:—Choke monopolies, break up rings, vote for honest men, fear God and make money. So shalt thou prosper; and sorrow and hard times shall flee away.—California Granger.

To the Patrons of Husbandry Throughout the Union.

It is with great pleasure that the Patron's Relief Committee announces to our large-hearted brethren throughout the Union, that no more contributions to sufferers from over-flow is needed, the liberal assistance already received being amply sufficient to carry our distressed brethren through the most urgent of their necessities. A full report of the disbursements, as well as of the receipts will soon be published by the Committee and placed in the hands of the Master of every State Grange. Until then, the Committee, as well as those who have been re-ipients of our brethren's kind liberality return sincere thanks for the same.

H. W. L. LEWIS, Master.

G. L. HALL, E. F. VIRGIN, N. D. WATKINS, Committee.

The Patrons of Husbandry

[From Rochester Star.]

Editor: Although there are over 1500 Granges, or Patrons of Husbandry in this country, among which may be found men of superior talent, long agricultural experience, and possessing a thorough knowledge of the objects and aims of this honorable Order, I have yet to see anything in the columns of your valuable journal from any member of the Order upon this subject.

I therefore ask a small space for the purpose of placing before the numerous readers of the Central Star, who are yet outside the gates of the Grange, what I conceive to be some of the true objects of the Order, and also for the purpose of removing certain erroneous opinions that have been formed of it.

It is often charged upon us that we are antagonistic to the mercantile interests of the country.—This charge has for its foundation, in many instances, the taunts and threats made by indiscreet members of the Order, and to such an extent has it obtained credence, that it is the main cause of the general want of full confidence at present manifested between farmer and merchant. The true Patron does not propose to break down the legitimate business of any man or set of men. On the contrary, every intelligent member of the Order is aware that the "middle man" must come in somewhere, and is just as necessary for the purposes of trade as the "middle man" is to a boy's game of marbles the game would not be perfect without that one marble; so business cannot be conveniently transacted without a "middle man."

Some, where, and why not have our own local merchants in that capacity, just as well as the man in Memphis or New Orleans? In the language of a talented member of the Order, we affirm that "our organization simply directs its assaults upon vitiated systems that, vampire like, fan its victim whilst it draws the red current that gives it life." And if our Order develops a system out of which will spring a judicious economy that will make our planters solvent and invest their business with a merit unknown to it for years, every other interest, and especially the mercantile, will feel its revivifying effects. We do not wish to be understood from what has just been said, as being opposed to the system of Grange Agencies as established at all the principal points of commerce, by the different State Granges. On the contrary, we believe it to be the imperative duty of every member of the Order to sustain them with their wholesale trade, for through them thousands of dollars have been saved to the planters throughout the country.

Our Order was not established to make war upon any pursuit or profession, but for the purpose of placing the Agricultural interests in their proper position, as the foundation of all other interests and not subservient thereto; add also for the purpose of restoring our country to its former political purity and prosperity. We have declared war against none but the politically corrupt, the monopolist, and various rings and corrupt combinations organized by capitalists for the sole purpose of controlling all the industrial interests, as well as the Legislative and Judicial bodies of the country. These we recognize as our enemies, and we have a grand army of over one million, beside the hearty co-operation of all good men outside the Order, to crush them out, and no man will dare say we cannot or will not do it. The Order is in its youth yet, but its influence for good is even now felt throughout the land, and it will continue to grow in power influence and usefulness, until the last vestige of political corruption has been swept out of both State and National governments, and the monopolists, the Salary grabber, Credit Mobiler, Speculator and extortioner are sunk into an ocean of Oblivion.

However, political or religious questions are not tolerated as subjects of discussion in the work of the order, and no one sacrifices his duties as a citizen, or his political or religious principles in uniting with it. It includes men of all political opinions; and as questions of public policy are constantly arising to demand the attention of members, independent, intelligent and harmonious action "outside the Gate" is expected of each individual member, as good citizens, taking a practical interest in the general welfare. Indeed, we would soon waiting in a proper appreciation of our duty as citizens and farmers should we refuse to show our influence in such a direction as would best serve to correct the evils of which our Order complains. Yet, we claim to be altogether unpolitical, as now organized; but our sympathies and our votes will be given to any political organization, that has in view the restraining, by political action, the oppressive operations of capitalists—a power which, by corrupt combinations and laws, passed, as its holding, through corrupt representations in both State and National Legislatures, has reduced the producing class to no less a condition as to be tauntingly termed "white slaves"—a power which appropriates to itself the "lion's share" of the products of our toil, the enjoyment of all of which is one of those inalienable, natural rights given us by our Creator.

Another leading object of the Patrons is to make our country homes and society attractive, refined and enjoyable, and to balance exhaustive labor and industry with instructive intercourse. Women have been admitted to the Grange for the reason that without her presence and aid, it is doubtful whether the objects of the Order, especially in regard to the refinements of education and all that tends to brighten the fireside and enliven home, could have been accomplished. Where he can be accompanied by his wife or sister, every husband and brother knows that he will learn no lessons but those of purity and truth.

Such Mr. Editor, are some of the objects and features of the Order. There are many others I would be glad to refer to, but I fear I have already trespassed too much upon your columns, and will, for the present, leave the subject; but, with your permission, will, at some future day, tell you and your numerous readers something more about this great uprising of the producing class, which has already swept over the land from Maine to California, shedding its purifying influence in every nook and corner of the Union, and causing corrupt political tricksters, monopolists and venal representatives in both State and National Legislatures, and all others who have been preying upon the hard earnings of the country, to tremble with fear, and to cry out—

Mark! from the Grange there comes a sound—
Music ours have heard the notes—
The cheering words have all been found,
And we'll kill them with our votes.

J. H. W.

Clear Branch Grange, No. 270,
July 1st, 1874.

Press Gag Law.

The Radical Republican press of the country are blowing fearfully about what that party has done for the liberty of the press. They fail to tell us that the party unanimously, at the close of the last session of Congress, passed an act which is the gag of the press for the purpose of choking off the truth. A special to the Chicago Tribune thus gives its working.

Ex-Gov. Shepherd appeared before the Grand Jury in this city today, with a number of editorials in the New York 'Sun', treating of his public acts, which he solemnly made oath were untrue, and upon this he asked that Chas. A. Dana, the editor of the 'Sun', be indicated for libel, and brought here for trial. This, it is presumed, is the beginning of the programme to be carried out under Mr. Poland's new libel law, which he claims cannot be used in retaliation by official gentlemen who feel aggrieved at the criticism made upon them by the press. No action was taken by the jury to day, but it is thought that they will prepare the indictment before they adjourn. The hope is expressed here that Dana will accept the fight and allow the case to come to trial here. All the resources of those who propose to thus muzzle the press will be made use of to secure his conviction and imprisonment, and it is urged it might be as well to let the people know, once for all, what desperate measures can be restored to by the men who find it disagreeable to be exposed in their official misconduct. It is argued that, if Mr. Dana should be convicted and imprisoned, which is altogether unlikely except with a pack of jury, the fact and the method by which it would be accomplished would make apparent to the country how infamous this underhand attempt to curtail the freedom of the press really is, and its authors would, in the storm of condemnation that must follow, receive such a rebuke as would forever after prevent a similar attempt.

A Sound Platform.

The following is the platform of the Farmers' and People's Anti-Monopoly Party of Livingston county, Illinois. Every farmer and workman in the country can stand upon it and make a successful fight against all opposing classes and interests. We endorse every word and sentiment of this platform:

DECLARATION.

This organization is opposed to railroad monopolies, tariff scales, salary grabbers, bank monopolies, and every other form of stealing by which the farmer and laboring classes are robbed of the legitimate fruits of their labor.

PLATFORM.

1. We are in favor of controlling by law the railroad corporations of our State.

2. We submit to taxation and taxation to meet the necessities of the Government, but denounce as unjust and oppressive all taxation for the benefit of special classes.

3. We are in favor of the present banking system being so made that all men, by giving the proper security, should have equal privileges, so that supply and demand shall regulate our money market.

4. We are opposed to all future grants of land to railroad or other corporations, and believe that the public domain should be held sacred to the actual settlers.

5. We are in favor of a true system of civil service reform, making honesty and capacity the only valid claim for public employment; and believe that the office should seek the man, and not the man the office.

Some Things Which the Patrons Propose to Do.

1. To secure for ourselves, through the Granges, social and educational advantages, not otherwise attainable, and to thereby, while improving their condition as a class, ennoble farm life, and render it attractive and desirable.

2. To give full practical effect to the fraternal tie which unites them, in helping each other in case of sickness, bereavement, pecuniary misfortune, and want and danger of every kind.

3. To make themselves better and more successful farmers and planters, by means of the knowledge gained, the habits of industry and method established, and the quickening of thought induced by intercourse and discussion.

4. To secure economies in the buying of implements, fertilizers, and family supplies, and in transportation, as well as increased profits in the sale of the products of their labor, without enhancing their cost to the consumer.

5. To entirely abolish the credit system, in their ordinary transactions, always buying and selling on a cash basis, both among themselves and in their dealings with the outside world.

6. To encourage co-operation in trade, in farming, and in other branches of industry, especially those most intimately connected with agriculture.

A Visit to Ocean Grange.

I've had the pleasure of attending the regular monthly meeting of Ocean Grange, No. 569, on Saturday, the 1st ult. at Ocean Springs, Jackson county.

Ocean Grange, is perfectly organized. B. O. G. K. Capers, the courteous and efficient Master, has entered the contest with the spirit and interest of a true Patron, and he is sustained to an eminent degree by all the able officers of the Grange.

Much business was before the Grange and the system and dispatch with which it met, reflected great credit upon their able Secretary, T. W. Grayson. The ladies manifested much interest in the discussions, and lent much to make the meeting pleasant. The attendance was not as large as is usual, but this was owing to a misunderstanding in relation to the hour of meeting.

For the Star.

WORTHY BROTHER:

Acting on a request made through the "STAR" of Secretaries and other Patrons to furnish any information concerning granges, I send you a few words in relation to our Grange.

Bluff Grange was organized on the 25th day of March 1874. The officers are:

James B. McKee, Master.

J. W. Westfall, Overseer.

J. Cherry, Lecturer.

S. A. Thompson, Steward.

C. J. Harrington, Ass't Steward.

Rev. E. Roberts, Chaplain.

D. Sumrell, Treasurer.

J. W. Thompson, Secretary